Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A container assembly comprising a closure for an open-ended container, and an open-ended container, the container assembly comprising:

(i) a flexible membrane for closing the open end of the container;

(ii) an adhesive seal between the flexible membrane and the container;

(iii) a rigid cap having a resiliently deformable member juxtaposed to the flexible membrane such that when the cap is in use, the flexible membrane is pressed against the container in the vicinity of the seal, thereby reinforcing the seal sufficiently to withstand high pressures which are generated from cooking the contents of the container;

(iv) the rigid cap further having a first cam and follower pair, which when in use is engaged with a second cam and follower pair located on the container neck, relative movement between the first and second cam and follower pairs in a predetermined direction causes the rigid cap and the container neck to approach one another, thereby increasing the pressure exerted by the resiliently deformable member on the flexible membrane; and

(v) the rigid cap further having a laminar member and an annular skirt, the skirt extending downwardly from the laminar member, and the second cam and follower pair is secured on an upper wall of the skirt,

wherein the laminar member is spaced from the flexible membrane by a distance less than the maximum possible extension of the flexible membrane towards the laminar member.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) A container assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the first and second cam and follower pairs include co-operating screw threads formed respectively on the container neck and the rigid cap.

4. (Previously Presented) A container assembly according to Claim 1 further having an annular flange, the resiliently deformable member is substantially congruent with the flange, and wherein the rigid cap is in place over the container, the resiliently deformable member presses the flexible membrane against the flange.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) A container assembly according the Claim 1 wherein the laminar member is a circular disc, and the skirt extends from the outer periphery thereof.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) A container assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the resiliently deformable member comprises a foamed material secured to the rigid cap.

9. (Previously Presented) A container assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the flexible membrane comprises a metal foil adhesively securable on the container neck.

10. (Previously Presented) A container assembly according to Claim 4 wherein the rigid cap is shaped for use with the container neck which is generally cylindrical in shape.

11. (Previously Presented) A container assembly according to Claim 1 including a lifting tab hingedly secured to the flexible membrane and is comprised of the same material as that of the flexible membrane.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A container assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the rigid cap supports the body of the can in a radial direction.

14. (Withdrawn) A method of closing a container with a closure to form a container assembly according to Claim 1 comprising the steps of:

(i) adhesively securing said flexible membrane on the open end of a the neck of the container, thereby forming said seal;

(ii) engaging the cam and follower of a said rigid cap and the container neck, with one another; and

(iii) moving the rigid cap and the container neck relative to one another to cause relative movement between the cam and the follower in the predetermined direction, thereby causing the resiliently deformable member to press the flexible membrane against the container in the vicinity of the seal sufficiently to maintain the seal against pressures generated in the container on cooking of its contents.

15. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 14 including the step of securing the flexible membrane on the open end of the said container neck by use of a heat-sealing method such as heat contact, ultrasonic, induction or hot air heating.

16. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 14 wherein the step of moving the rigid cap and the container neck relative to one another includes rotating the rigid cap and the container relative to one another.

17. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 14 wherein the step of adhesively securing the flexible membrane on the open end of the container neck includes the sub steps of applying adhesive material to the flexible membrane and/or the container neck; engaging the flexible membrane and the container neck with one another to define the seal; and curing the adhesive material.

18. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 17 wherein the substep of curing the adhesive material includes heating thereof.

19-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 14 including the steps of:

Adding food to the container through a second open end of the container which is opposite said open end closed by said closure;

closing said second open end by a conventional can end;

heating said food within said container to cook said food; and

preventing rupture of said flexible membrane due to internal container pressure caused by said heating by the presence of said laminar member of said cap.